

1/31 Draft  
Proposed Preamble to CALFED Record of Decision

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This Record of Decision adopts a programmatic environmental assessment for a preferred alternative which provides a point of departure for further developing and implementing in phases a thirty year CALFED plan. Adoption of this ROD makes it possible to proceed with site specific environmental assessments and implementation that accelerate the early phases of CALFED's plan. However, the preferred alternative must be flexible and subject to change because it is based on science and technology that is continually evolving, and because CALFED has not yet analyzed the efficacy of its proposals and the interrelations among goals that compete for limited resources.

CALFED, therefore, pledges that every broad or site specific measure for achieving a CALFED goal will be analyzed technically and impartially before adoption and implementation in order to assure compliance with CALFED's principles, compatibility with other goals, and for a balanced use of limited natural and financial resources. This will be done and revisions of the plan made by a process covered elsewhere in the ROD.

CALFED is committed to the following:

- Compliance with the Mission statement that "Solutions will solve problems in all problem areas. Improvement for some problems will not be made without corresponding improvement for other problems", and CALFED will avoid "redirected impacts". In this context "problem areas" are now understood to include, for example, both terrestrial and aquatic habitat; both export and area of origin water supply and quality; land and other resource needs for each of urban, environmental, and agricultural purposes as the population grows; etc.. More adequate water quality, for example, for one type or region of use does not substitute for less adequate water quality for another type or region of use.
- The preferred alternative for through-Delta conveyance and interrelated plans will be fully analyzed and modified as necessary to comply with all of the State's current and future water quality and flow standards, and optimized for compatible provision for in-Delta habitat and fish protection, in-Delta water quality, export water quality, protection of adequate South Delta water levels, and conveyance of flood flows. Local expertise will be fully utilized in making this assessment.
- In providing for the needs of California's growing population over the life of the plan CALFED will not rely on depletion of natural soil and groundwater resources.